

London Borough of Enfield

Subject: Climate Action Plan Progress Report 2020/21 – Engagement and Publication

Cabinet Member: Cllr Ian Barnes, Deputy Leader

Key Decision: N/A

Purpose of Report

1. In its Climate Action Plan the Council commits to annually reviewing progress via alternating progress reports and full reviews. Following adoption of the Climate Action Plan in July 2020 and implementation starting in August 2020, the intention is to engage on and then publish a Progress Report in respect of the 2020/21 financial year.
2. Alongside this a second Carbon Emissions Review has been prepared, which includes details of the carbon emissions data analysis undertaken to support the Progress Report. This will be published at the same time as the Progress Report.
3. This portfolio report sets out:
 - An overview of the content of the Progress Report.
 - The timescales for developing, engaging on and publishing the Progress Report.
 - The engagement approach in respect of the Progress Report.

Proposal(s)

4. That the Deputy Leader agrees to external engagement being undertaken in respect of the draft 2020/21 Climate Action Plan Progress Report and then, following this and any related revisions, to publish the final 2020/21 Climate Action Plan Progress Report.

Relevance to the Council's Plan

5. Climate action is a cross-cutting theme of the Council's Plan. By reporting progress against the actions and targets in the Climate Action Plan, as well as highlighting areas for further development and action in the coming year, the Council will be able to take effective action to reduce carbon emissions in line with overarching targets:
 - Carbon neutral organisation by 2030.
 - Carbon neutral borough by 2040.

Background

6. The Council adopted its ambitious Climate Action Plan in July 2020, with headline targets to be a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 and for the borough to be carbon neutral by 2040. Within the Plan there was a commitment to:

“... review performance and publish our progress on an annual basis, using the key performance indicators set out in our plan. When we do that, we will invite the public and other stakeholders to comment on our performance and ask us questions about the progress we are making.”

7. This is the first such progress report and represents the start of a regular cycle of reflection and refinement, as we look to achieve carbon neutrality.

Content

8. The Progress Report has been structured:

<i>Section</i>	<i>Summary</i>
Chair's Introduction	Introduction from Cllr Ian Barnes which provides an overview of the reason for and purpose of the progress report, brief highlights from 2020/21 and highlights the need for cooperation and engagement.
Progress in 2020/21	<p>Highlights set out by the thematic areas in the Climate Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. The Council's operationsB. TravelC. BuildingsD. WasteE. EnergyF. Natural environmentG. Influencing othersH. Financing the plan <p>These are top level because more detail is included for each individual action and measure in the appendices accompanying the main report.</p>
Review of carbon emissions in 2020/21	<p>Overview of the data analysis relating to carbon emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Direct: Council fuel, gas and electricity use.• Indirect / Influence: Council related activities; homes, outsourced services and suppliers.• Borough – Wider energy consumption for domestic, industrial, transport and waste sectors.• Offset – Emissions which are mitigated (e.g. trees). <p>This section will also consider the impacts of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Better data and baseline consistency

<i>Section</i>	<i>Summary</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 • Scope switching • Trajectory setting <p>Detailed analysis is included in a separate document: "Enfield's Carbon Emissions Review 2020/21".</p>
Review of actions and Key Performance Indicators	<p>Brief summary of some of the challenges and opportunities identified in respect of the actions and measures in the Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>A review of the actions and Key Performance Indicators will be included in separate appendices.</p>
Challenges to Consider	<p>Brief summary of other areas to be considered and proposed approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adaptation and resilience • Aligning with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals • Embodied carbon.
Priorities for 2021/22	<p>Overview of the climate action priorities the Council proposes to focus on in 2021/22:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Embedding climate action in our work including empowering staff to deliver B. Corporate buildings including schools C. Energy and water D. Consistent approach to new buildings E. Residential retrofit F. Active and sustainable transport G. Adaptation and resilience H. Engagement and finance <p>These are broadly aligned with the thematic areas in the Climate Action but are more focused on those workstreams with the greatest impact and where significant progress can be made in 2021/22.</p>
Engagement	<p>Section asking for the public and stakeholders to contact the Council with dates for the 4-week engagement period.</p>
Appendix A	<p>Update on progress against the actions identified in the 2019/20 Carbon Emissions Review</p>
Appendix B	<p>Update on Climate Action Plan Actions including progress and an assessment of what this means and next steps.</p>
Appendix C	<p>Update on Climate Action Plan Key Performance Indicators</p>

Timescales

9. The timescales have been largely driven by the availability of updated data to inform the emissions review, which is balanced against the desire to publish the progress report in July / August (one year after the Climate Action Plan was adopted / decision implemented) and also still leaves a significant amount of time in 2021/22 to act on its contents:

<i>Timeframe</i>	<i>Deliverable</i>
End of March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scope of CAP Progress Review agreed with Climate Change Task Force
End of April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overview of proposed content and approach presented to Executive Management Team.• Start of data collection and analysis to support the annual emissions review
End of June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of Council's direct emissions completed• Overview of progress report and approach discussed with the Climate Change Task Force• Initial typesetting of report
July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review of Council's wider emissions and borough-wide emissions completed
August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public and stakeholder engagement• Progress report updated following stakeholder and public engagement• Cabinet Member sign off and publication on Council's website

Engagement Process

10. The progress report is a non-statutory document and does not set out any new policies, so a proportionate engagement process is being undertaken:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Approach</i>
Cabinet Member	Briefings: 1. May 2021 2. June 2021 3. July 2021
Climate Change Task Force	1. Outline discussed at March 2021 meeting 2. Overview of approach at May 2021 meeting 3. Draft document circulated in July 2021
Council directorates, services and teams	1. Briefings and presentations at management meetings. 2. Corporate internal consultation process.
Councillors	1. Group briefings either at meetings or via email 2. Members newsletter in August 2021

Public and stakeholders	1. Four-week engagement period in August 2021 with comments invited via: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council website. • Social media platforms.
Regional and local government	1. Email request for input in August 2021

Approval Process

11. The progress report focuses on performance in respect of Climate Action Plan actions and measures, whilst also responding to areas of further work arising from the 2019/20 Emissions Review and setting out priorities for 2021/22. As such, it is in line with the recommendations agreed by Cabinet in June 2020 under KD5136:
 - I. Adopt the Enfield Climate Action Plan.
 - II. Delegate responsibility for implementation of the Enfield Climate Action Plan to the Executive Director of Place in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member.
12. However, given the interest there is in climate action and the leadership role that the Council has chosen to take in this area, this report has been prepared to document the approach to engagement and confirm the commitment to publish a Climate Action Plan Progress Report for 2020/21.

Main Considerations for the Council

13. The Council has committed to reporting on progress in respect of the Climate Action Plan and the proposed approach set out in this report will meet that requirement. This approach does not raise any negative implications and is positive in respect of public health and climate change.

Safeguarding Implications

14. None identified.

Public Health Implications

15. Climate change is the greatest global health threat facing the world in the 21st century representing an existential threat. Many of the avoidance / mitigation actions are in and of themselves health enhancing – active travel, better air quality, greater biodiversity etc. This report is therefore welcomed and supported.
16. The World Health Organisation in its 2003 report 'Global climate change and health: an old story writ large' noted that:

"Populations of all animal species depend on supplies of food and water, freedom from excess infectious disease, and the physical safety and comfort conferred by climatic stability. The world's climate system is fundamental to this life-support."

17. The climate change emergency that we currently face is having a direct impact on the world's life support, which in turn has a range of health impacts.
18. Some of these could be positive, for example more temperate winters leading to a reduction in the seasonal peak in deaths.
19. However, as global climate events have shown, overwhelmingly these impacts will be negative including the direct impacts on health arising from adverse weather events, such as peaks in deaths attributable to respiratory illnesses in periods of high temperatures. Therefore, the Climate Action Plan (CAP), seeks to drastically reduce the Council's own carbon emissions and lead by example to encourage others to do likewise. This will have a positive impact on resident's health.
20. The CAP has significant synergy with the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS) which encompasses work on reducing smoking, increasing physical activity and improving access to healthy foods. As well as addressing the overall negative impacts of climate change, many of the actions in the CAP will have more direct health benefits addressing priorities within the HWBS such as:
- Increasing the use of low carbon and zero carbon forms of transport reduces air pollution and, given our ambition for more people to walk and cycle, should also reduce the health damaging effects of motorised transport e.g. road traffic injuries, community segregation and noise and physical inactivity.
 - By encouraging a sustainable food offer within the borough, we will contribute to better nutrition among residents as well as reduced carbon emissions.
 - Similarly, by reducing smoking among residents we will contribute to reducing the negative impact that tobacco production has on the environment as well as also achieve improved health outcomes.
21. Other positive health benefits to the CAP include improving the quality of housing stock (e.g. providing better insulation), which has a positive impact on mental health and can reduce incidents of conditions such as hypothermia and excess winter deaths.
22. In addition, consideration of reducing the impact of climate change amongst the most socially and economically vulnerable residents will also positively impact on health inequalities.
23. Given this overall the actions proposed in the CAP will support Public Health's efforts to embed Health in all Policies across the Council.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

24. The proposals to report on progress and engage with stakeholders do not in themselves have any direct implications. When engaging with stakeholders, there will be consideration of the need for accessible materials and platforms.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

25. By reporting progress against the actions and targets in the Climate Action Plan, as well as highlighting areas for further development and action in the coming year,

the Council will be able to take effective action to reduce carbon emissions in line with overarching targets:

- Carbon neutral organisation by 2030.
- Carbon neutral borough by 2040.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

26. The main risk is reputational because the Council has made a clear commitment to monitor and publish information on progress made with delivering the actions and targets in the Climate Action Plan. There is also a risk that delivery of the Climate Action Plan will be delayed if progress is not consistently and regularly assessed.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

27. Should there have been little or no progress with delivering the Climate Action Plan, then this would have an environmental impact for the borough and a reputational impact for the Council. However, given the amount of climate action that has been taken in 2020/21, this is not considered to be a significant risk.

Financial Implications

28. The estimated cost of the proposals to report on progress and engage with stakeholders will be met from the current Climate Action and Sustainability Team budgets. More widely, delivery of the actions and targets in the Climate Action Plan will have a financial impact. This is currently being considered on a programme and project cost / funding basis, with further work required to cost the priority actions in the Climate Action Plan.

Legal Implications

29. Section 3 LGA Local Government Act 1999 (as amended) requires an authority "to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness" ("the best value duty"). It also obliges the authority to consult certain groups of persons "for the purpose of deciding how to fulfil the duty" (s.3(2)). In line with this duty, this report seeks authority to publish a draft Climate Action Plan for the purpose of engaging with a range of stakeholders on how to fulfil its commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030.

30. The Climate Change Act 2008 requires the UK to achieve an 80% reduction in greenhouse gas levels (below 1990 levels) by 2050. The Prime Minister announced on 12th June 2019 that the UK will eradicate its net contribution to climate change by 2050. The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019 amends the 2008 Act.

31. The Government's commitment to the Paris Agreement, and its ratification by the UK in November 2016 is another important consideration. The Paris Agreement is aimed at tackling climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions and

keeping global temperatures “well below” 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C.

32. The Council will need to ensure that the Climate Action Plan complies with legislation as well as both local and national planning policy.

Workforce Implications

33. The proposals to report on progress and engage with stakeholders do not in themselves have any direct implications.

Property Implications

34. The proposals to report on progress and engage with stakeholders do not in themselves have any direct implications.

Other Implications

35. None identified.

Options Considered

36. **Do nothing** – This was not pursued because the Council has made a commitment to provide regular updates on progress against the actions and measures in the Climate Action Plan.

Conclusions

37. The Council has committed to reporting on progress in respect of the Climate Action Plan and the proposed approach set out in this report meets that requirement.

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Appendices

None.

Background Papers

Enfield's Climate Action Plan 2020.